

EIGHTEEN
MONTHS AGO.

THEY'RE
ASHORE. WE
HAVE THE
SIGNAL.

YOU
EXPLAINED
WE ONLY
WANT THE
PIT?

YES, MASTER.
AND THAT YOU DID
NOT WANT THE
WOMAN HURT.

EXCELLENT.

IF I MAY BE
BOLD AND ASK A
QUESTION.

YOU MAY, UBU.

WHY SPARE THE
WOMAN?

I WANT
NYSSA TO KNOW
THE PRICE OF HER
DEFIANCE.

AH, GOOD--

--THEY'VE
STARTED.

LEAVE
NOW.



YOU OFFER
NO DEFENSE?
CAN I CONCLUDE
YOU DON'T
CONTEST THE
CHARGE?



I DON'T *NEED*
TO DEFEND MYSELF.

YOUR *ACCUSA-*
TION IS FALSE.



HOW
SO?

UNLESS THERE IS
ANOTHER BRUCE
WAYNE, *ANOTHER*
WAYNE ENTERPRISES SO
ZEALOUS IN THEIR
PERSECUTION
OF ME...



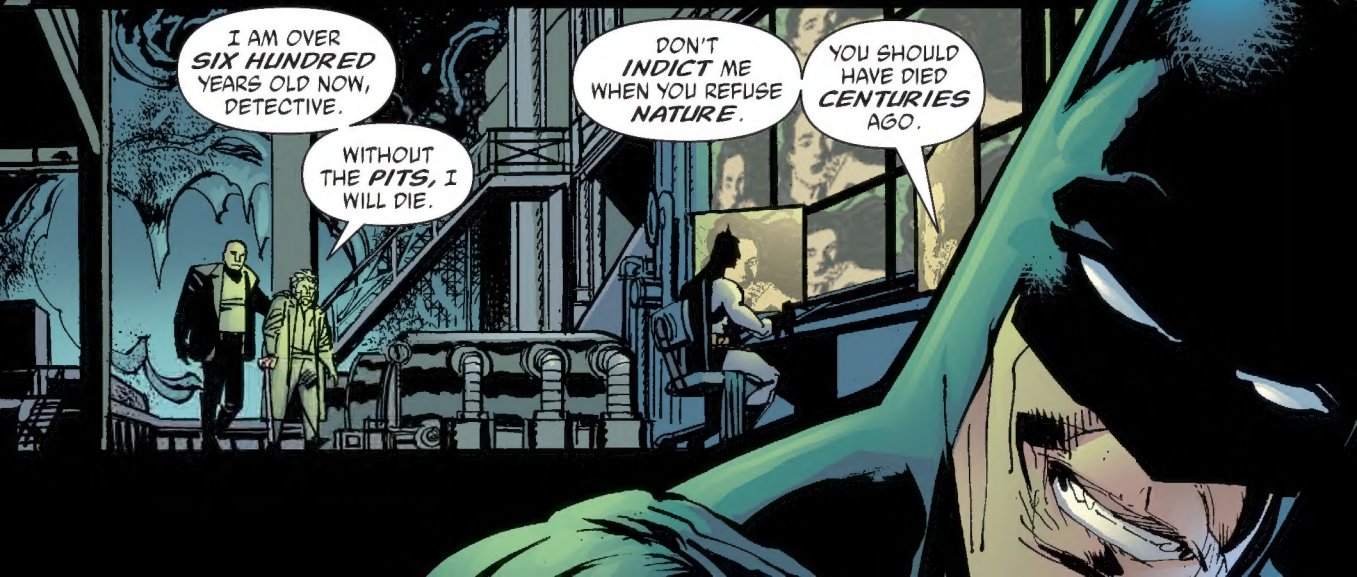
...IT *MUST*
BE YOU WHO IS
DESTROYING
THE PITS.

I AM OVER
SIX HUNDRED
YEARS OLD NOW,
DETECTIVE.

WITHOUT
THE *PITS*, I
WILL DIE.

DON'T
INDICT ME
WHEN YOU REFUSE
NATURE.

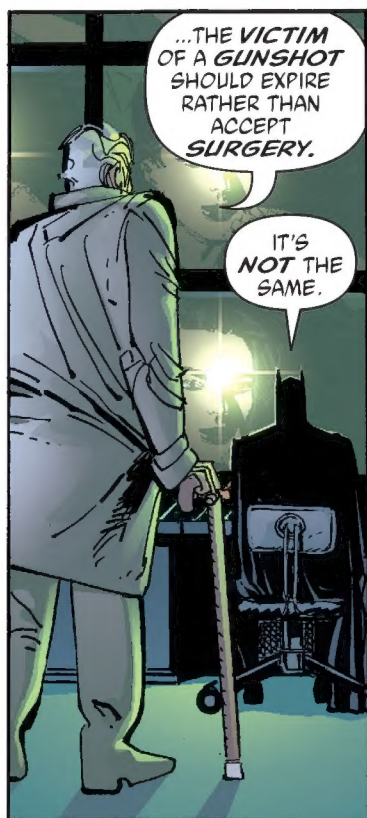
YOU SHOULD
HAVE DIED
CENTURIES
AGO.





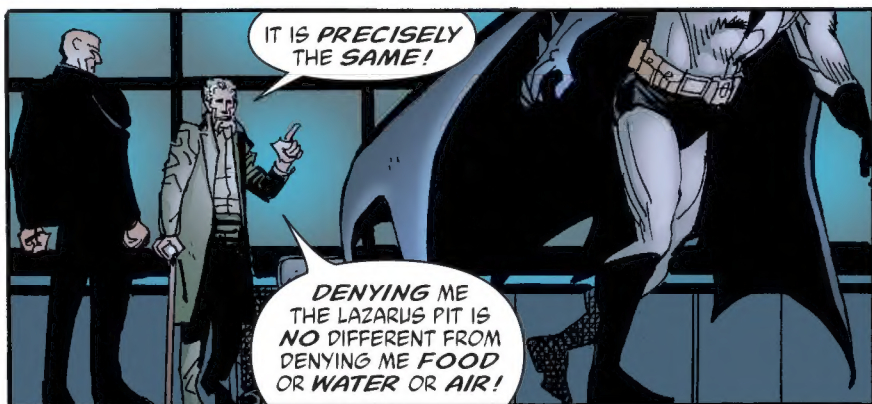
BUT
I DID
NOT.

BY YOUR
ARGUMENT,
A *DIABETIC* SHOULD
PERISH RATHER THAN
TAKE *INSULIN*...



...THE *VICTIM*
OF A *GUNSHOT*
SHOULD EXPIRE
RATHER THAN
ACCEPT
SURGERY.

IT'S
NOT THE
SAME.



IT IS *PRECISELY*
THE SAME!

DENYING ME
THE LAZARUS PIT IS
NO DIFFERENT FROM
DENYING ME *FOOD*
OR *WATER* OR *AIR*!



YOU ARE
MURDERING ME,
DETECTIVE!

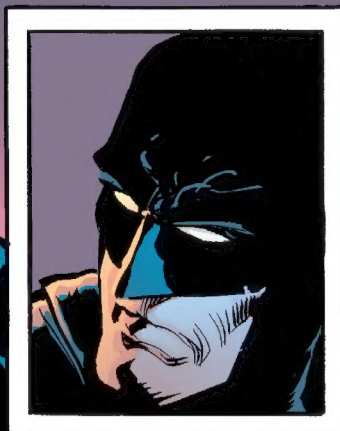
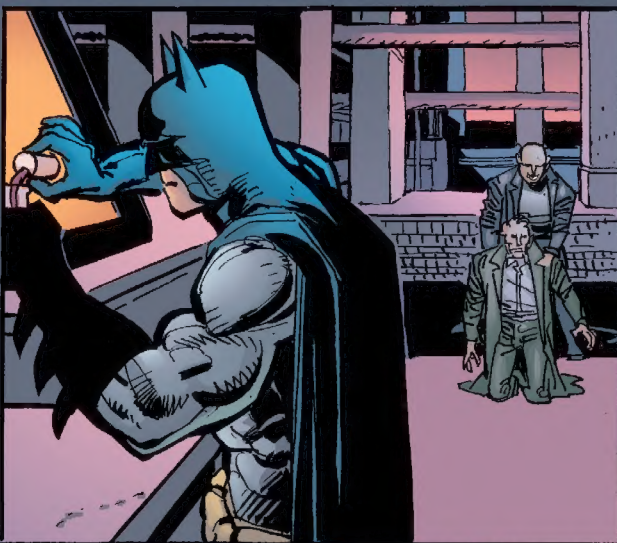
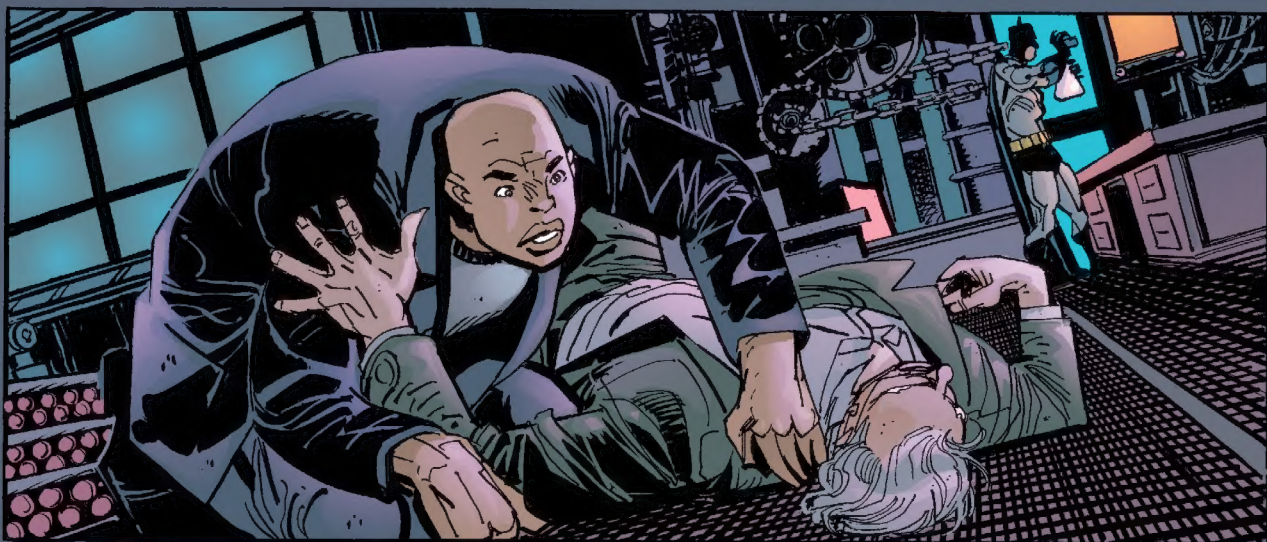


AND YOU
DON'T EVEN HAVE
THE *HONOR* TO
ADMIT--



=HUFF=

MASTER!





HELP HIM TO
THE **TABLE**.



I DID NOT COME
TO YOU HOPING FOR
PITY, DETECTIVE.



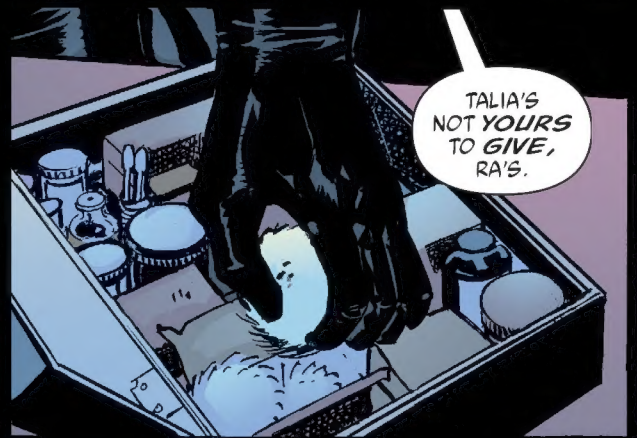
LET ME
SEE YOUR
HAND.



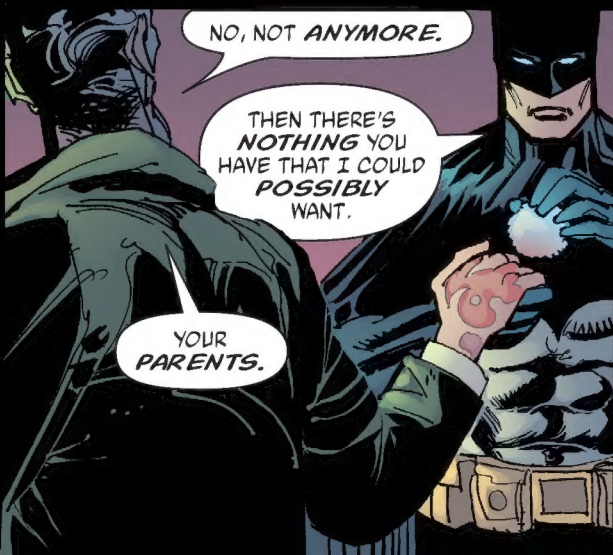
I DID NOT COME
TO **BEG**, BUT TO
BARGAIN.

YOU
KNOW MY
ANSWER
ALREADY.

YOU HAVE
NOT HEARD MY
OFFER.



TALIA'S
NOT **YOURS**
TO **GIVE**,
RA'S.



NO, NOT **ANYMORE**.

THEN THERE'S
NOTHING YOU
HAVE THAT I COULD
POSSIBLY
WANT.

YOUR
PARENTS.



YES.

I THOUGHT
THAT MIGHT GET YOUR
ATTENTION.





HE SHOULD
HAVE *KNOCKED*
FIRST.

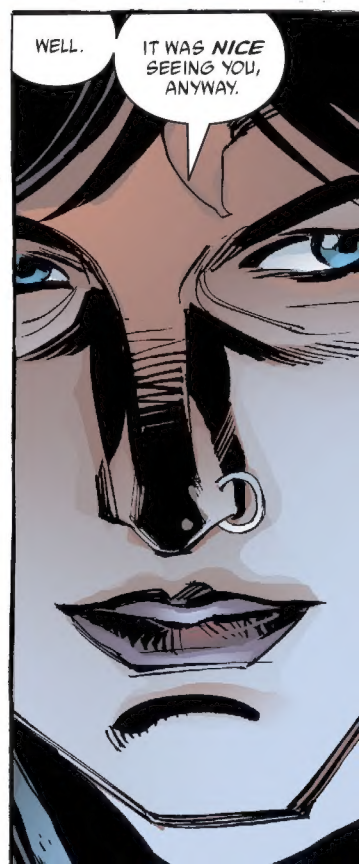


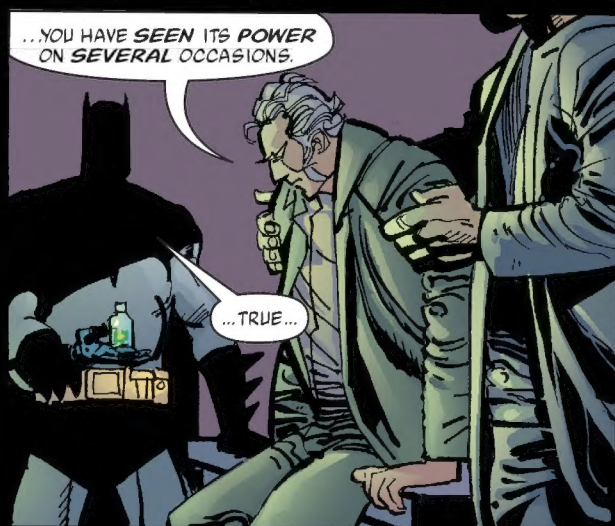
OF COURSE,
MISHA WOULD HAVE
SHOT HIM ANYWAY,
BUT IT'S AN ISSUE
OF *MANNERS*.



NOT THAT
MANNERS
MATTER MUCH
TO YOU.

ATTACKING
ME IN MY
OWN HOME.





A panel showing Batman on the left, wearing his iconic suit and cowl, holding a small green vial. He is looking at an older man with white hair and a beard, wearing a trench coat, who is looking down at the vial.

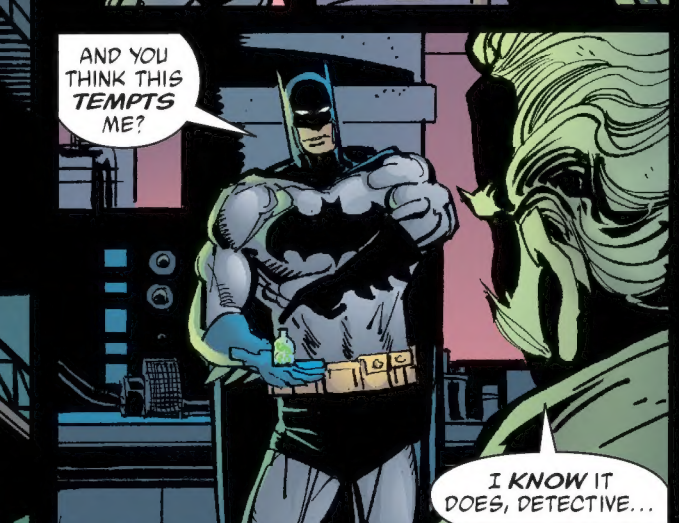
WHY SHOULD I BELIEVE YOU?

BECAUSE IT IS THE **ONLY** THING I CAN OFFER THAT YOU MIGHT ACCEPT.

I GIVE YOU TIME WITH YOUR **MOTHER**, WITH YOUR **FATHER**.

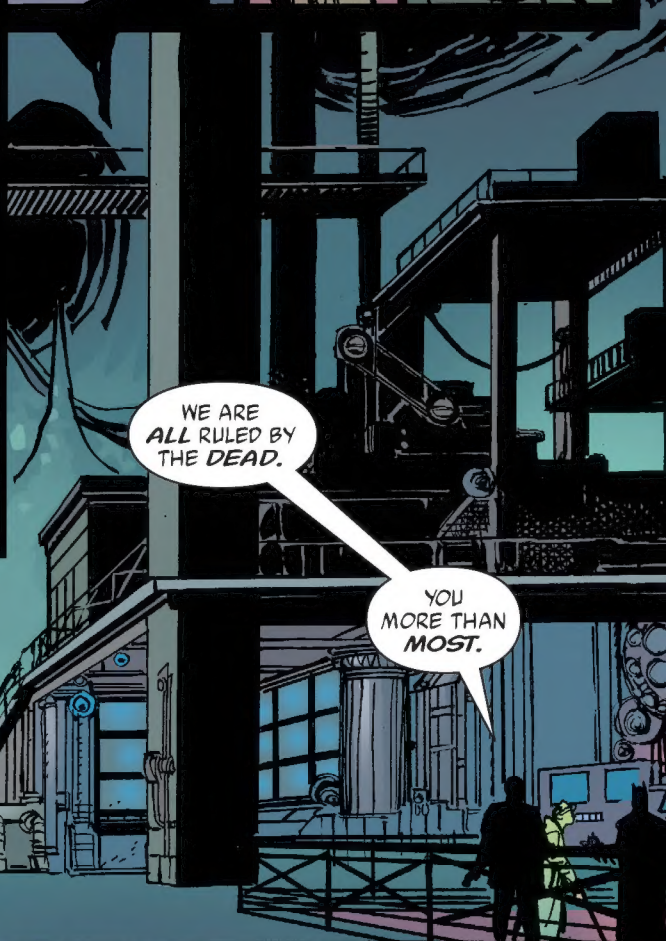
A panel showing two men in trench coats. The man on the left is older, with white hair and a beard, looking towards the right. The man on the right is younger, with dark hair, looking forward.

...AND IN **RETURN** I ASK YOU FOR A **SINGLE** PIT, JUST THIS **ONCE**...

A panel showing Batman on the left, holding the green vial, and the older man on the right, looking at him.

AND YOU THINK THIS **TEMPTS** ME?

I **KNOW** IT DOES, DETECTIVE...

A large panel showing a complex industrial facility with multiple levels, scaffolding, and pipes. In the background, a large building with a clock tower is visible.

WE ARE **ALL** RULED BY THE **DEAD**.

YOU **MORE** THAN **MOST**.

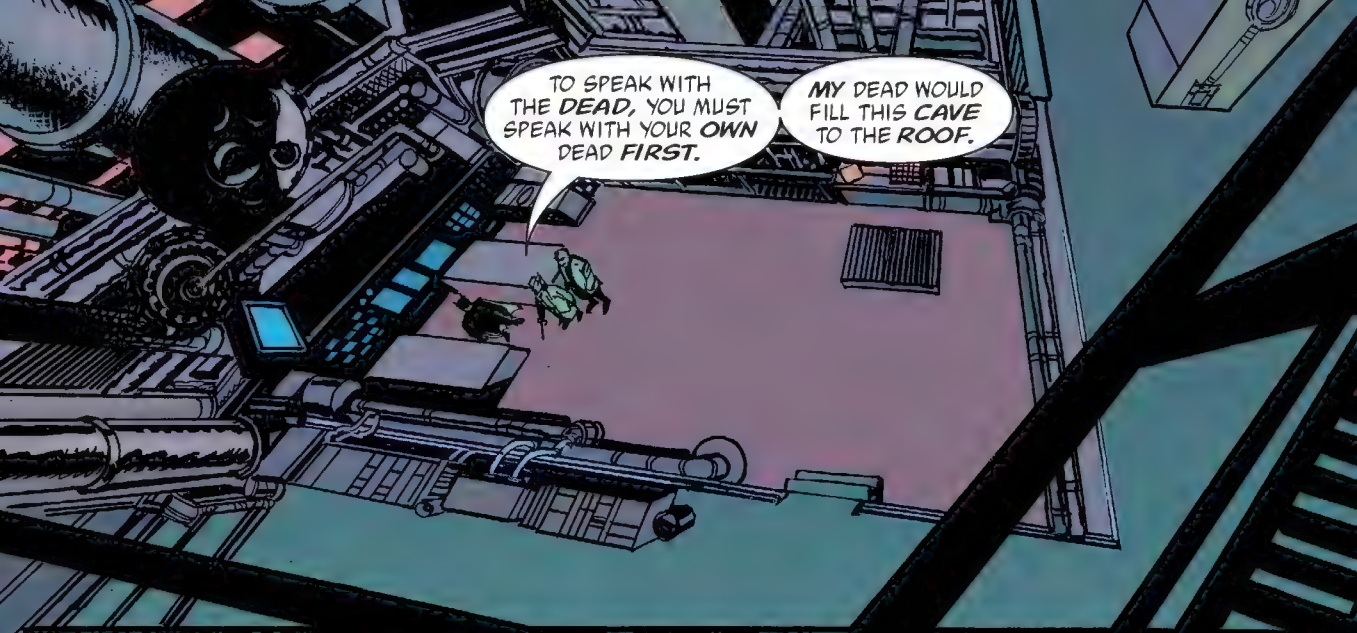
A panel showing Batman on the right, holding the green vial, and the older man on the left, looking at him.

I ASSURE YOU IT **WORKS**, ALTHOUGH I CONFESS THAT I HAVE **NEVER** USED THIS POWER **MYSELF**.

AND **WHY** IS THAT?

A close-up panel of the older man's face, showing his intense expression and white hair.

THE **TOLL** EXACTED FROM ME WOULD BE **TOO** GREAT.



TO SPEAK WITH
THE **DEAD**, YOU MUST
SPEAK WITH YOUR OWN
DEAD **FIRST**.

MY DEAD WOULD
FILL THIS **CAVE**
TO THE **ROOF**.



YOU THINK ME A **MONSTER**
MORE THAN A **MAN**, BUT I KNOW
WELL THE NUMBER OF **SOULS**
I HAVE SENT ON THEIR WAY.

AND WHILE
MY **CAUSE** IS
JUST, THEY ARE
MY DEAD ALL
THE **SAME**.



I HAVE
NO DESIRE
TO **LOOK** INTO
THEIR **EYES**
AGAIN.



BUT YOU
HAVE NO DEAD
TO **CLAIM**.



YOUR **GUILT**
NOTWITHSTANDING,
THERE IS **NO ONE**
WAITING TO TAKE
HIS **POUND**
OF **FLESH**
FROM YOU.



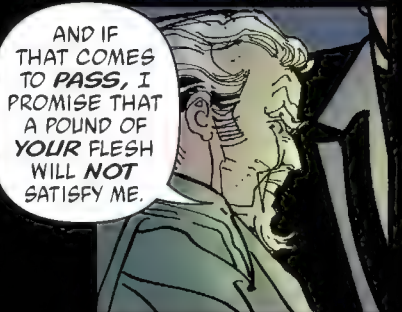
I GIVE YOU
TIME TO
CONSIDER,
DETECTIVE.

BUT I
WOULD **NOT**
TARRY, IF I WERE
YOU...



...OR ELSE
THE **FIRST**
THING YOU SEE
WHEN YOU **DO**
USE IT...

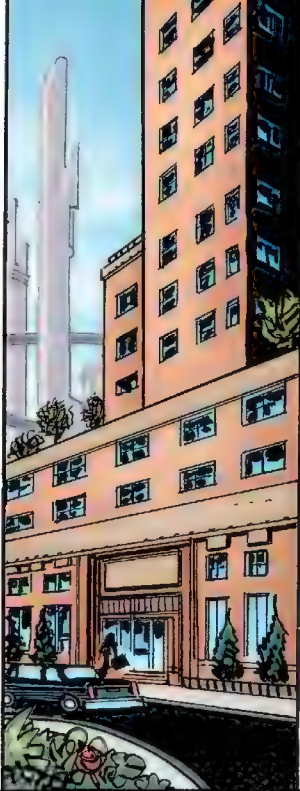
...WILL
BE **ME**.



AND IF
THAT COMES
TO **PASS**, I
PROMISE THAT
A POUND OF
YOUR **FLESH**
WILL **NOT**
SATISFY ME.

THREE MONTHS AGO.





GOOD EVENING, MISS TALIA.

THANK YOU, LAWRENCE.

BING



IT'S ABOUT TIME--OH! I BEG YOUR PARDON...

...I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE DELIVERY MAN.



NO, I LIVE HERE.

RIGHT, YEAH, OBVIOUSLY.

SEE, I JUST MOVED IN, I'VE BEEN UNPACKING ALL DAY AND I FINALLY ORDERED SOME CHINESE AND I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE GUY, YOU KNOW?



SURE.

SO...UH, I GUESS WE'RE NEIGHBORS...



...I'M NYSSA.

TALIA.

NICE TO MEET YOU.



IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME...?

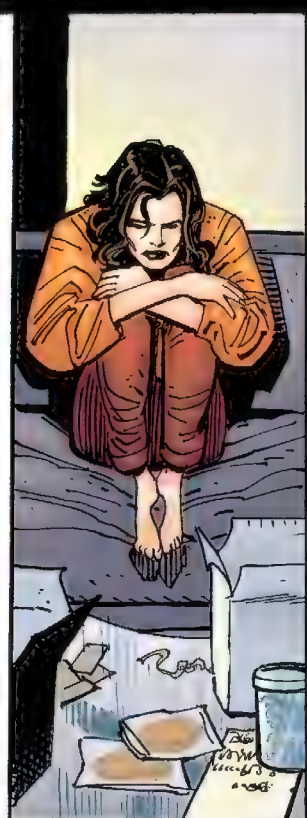
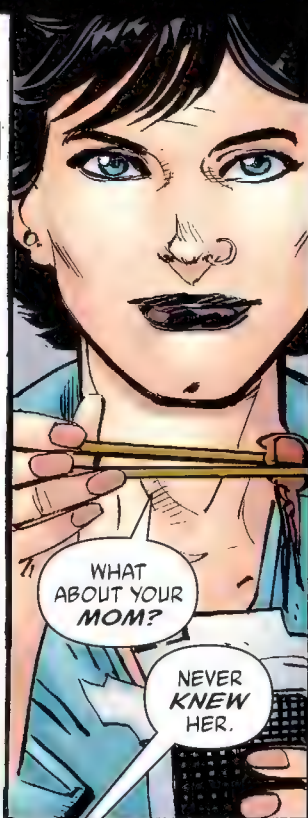
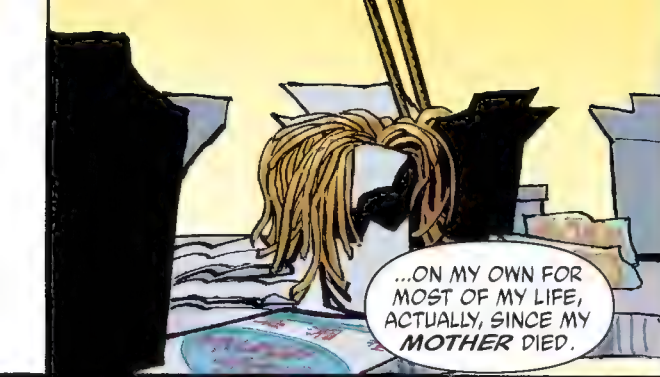
BING

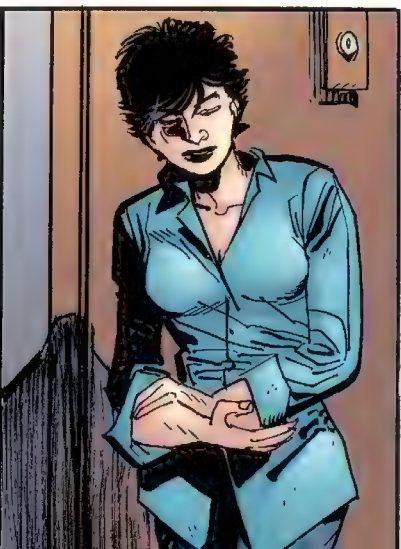
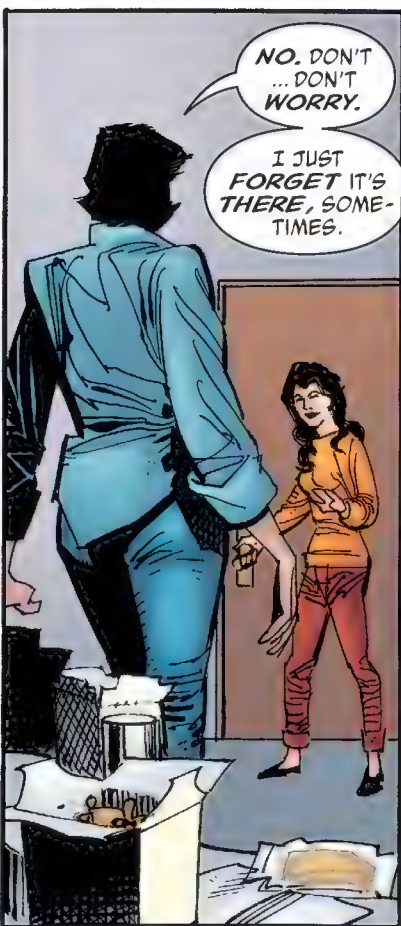
SURE--HEY! LOOKS LIKE MY FOOD'S FINALLY HERE.



YOU, UH...

...YOU WANT TO JOIN ME FOR DINNER?







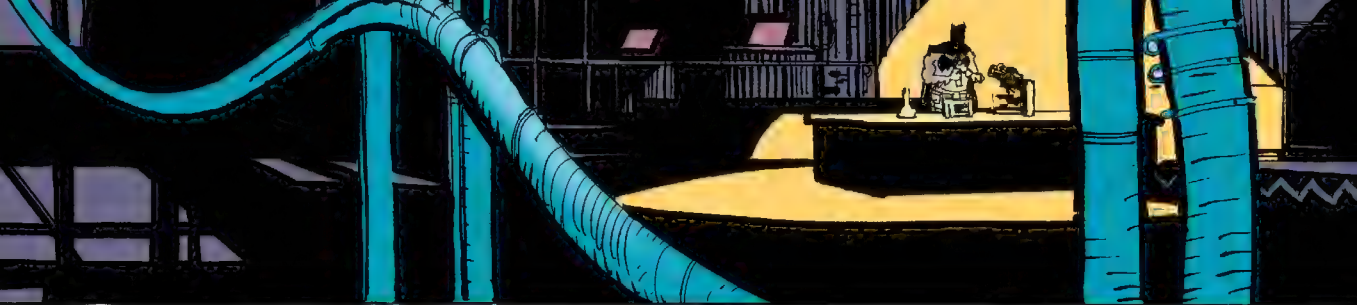
...THE
GREATER
GOOD...



...IT'S
ALWAYS
FOR THE
GREATER
GOOD...



...IT'S
ALWAYS
FOR THE
GREATER
GOOD...

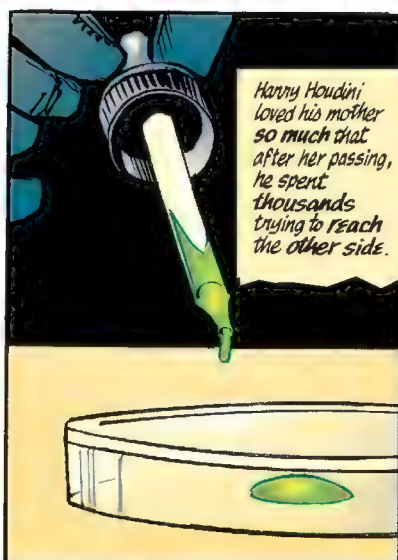


*In desperation,
Ra's lies.*

*Offering the oldest
promise ever to tempt man.*



*An answer
to the question
that is death.*



*Harry Houdini
loved his mother
so much that
after her passing,
he spent
thousands
trying to reach
the other side.*



*...all for a
chance to hear
her voice
once more.*



*In countless
seances held
by innumerable
mediums...*



*...he found only
promises made
by frauds
and swindlers...*



*...the tricks of men and
women he termed villains
of the highest order...*

...because they preyed on hope.

YOUR LUNCH, MASTER BRUCE.

LUNCH?

YOU'VE BEEN DOWN HERE EIGHT HOURS, SIR.

PERHAPS A SMALL RESPITE IS IN ORDER?

HAVE YOU VERIFIED HIS CLAIMS?

I WISH IT WERE THAT EASY.

I'M NOT AN ALCHEMIST.

THE BEST MY ANALYSIS CAN DETERMINE IS THAT HE *MIGHT* BE TELLING THE TRUTH.

IF IT HAD COME FROM ANYONE OTHER THAN RA'S, I WOULDN'T *EVEN* BE CONSIDERING IT.

YOU'RE NOT SERIOUS?

LET'S SAY I'M CONSIDERING THE OFFER.

THEN I MUST PROTEST EVEN THAT, MASTER BRUCE.



ASIDE FROM THE **LEGION** OF ETHICAL AND MORAL QUESTIONS THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO SPEAK WITH THE **SPIRIT** BEGS...

...NEED I REMIND YOU THAT RA'S AL GHUL IS NOT SIMPLY YOUR ENEMY, BUT AN **ENEMY** OF ALL **HUMANITY**?

YOU **CANNOT** TRUST HIM.

IN THIS, PERHAPS I CAN. I HAVE SOMETHING HE DESPERATELY **WANTS**.

THAT YOU WOULD EVEN **CONSIDER** HIS OFFER IS **UNLIKE** YOU, AND FORCES ME TO CONCLUDE THAT THERE ARE **OTHER** FACTORS INVOLVED HERE OF WHICH I REMAIN **IGNORANT**.



THE **DEAD** HAVE **EARNED** THEIR **REST**, BRUCE...



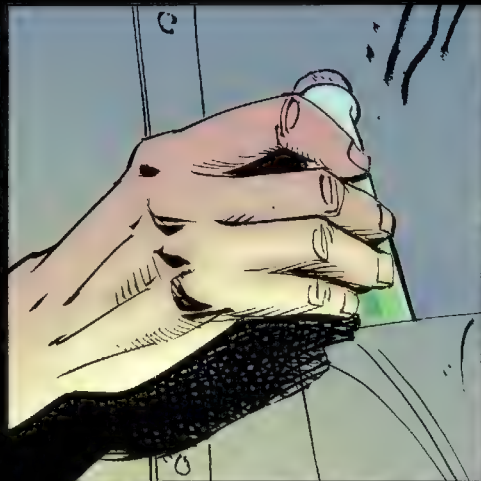
...IT IS **NOT** YOUR PLACE TO **DISTURB** THEM.

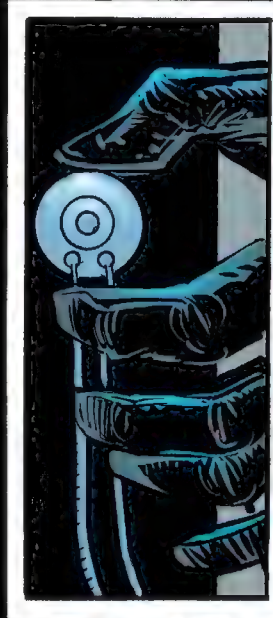
DA
DEET



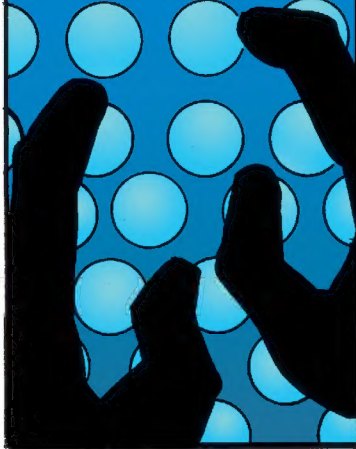
IT APPEARS THERE IS **SOME-ONE** AT THE **DOOR**.

YOU GO UP, I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.





MAG LOCK SECURE
ACCESS CODE: XXXXXX
DENIED
COUNTERMEASURES
BEGIN IN: 5



MAG LOCK SECURE
ACCESS CODE: XXX_
DENIED
COUNTERMEASURES
BEGIN IN: 3



:02

MAG LOCK SECURE
ACCESS CODE: XXXXXX_
CODE ACCEPTED
COUNTERMEASURES
RESET





MAY I
HELP YOU,
YOUNG
LADY?

OH, I
DON'T THINK
YOU CAN,
ACTUALLY.



I'M HERE
TO TALK TO
BATMAN.

IS HE
HOME?

From Baaldur, with love...

GLORITH





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